

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66602

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P 231600Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANTIAGO 5742 SENT SECSTATE AUGUST 22:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5742

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: PINOCHET INTERVIEW IN "ERCILLA"

1. IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW GIVEN COVER STORY BILLING IN AUGUST 20 WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE "ERCILLA," PRESIDENT PINOCHET REPEATS HIS VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUBJECTS. INTERVIEW BREAKS NO NEW GROUNDS.

2. PINOCHET DESCRIBES NATURE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AS "AUTHORITARIAN WITH AMPLE DEMOCRATIC ORIENTATION." GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH A NEW SOCIETY, BUT ROOTED IN CHILEAN NATIONAL TRAITS. DIRECT CONTACT WITH PEOPLE HAS BEEN IMPROVED BY ELIMINATION OF POLITICAL INTERMEDIARIES. SUCH CONTACT, AIDED BY PERIODIC PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS, KEEPS GOVERNMENT LEADERS FULLY AWARE OF PUBLIC CONCERNS. EVEN SO, GOVERNMENT UNLIKE POLITICIANS IS NOT TRYING TO WIN POPULARITY; "WE ARE GOVERNING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTRY AND NOT TO BE POPULAR." NO PLEBISCITE OR OTHER TRAPPINGS OF A "LIBERAL
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DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT" WILL BE ALLOWED, TO PREVENT "MARXISTS

FROM REGAINING CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY."

3. CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICAL OPINION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, AND GOC HAS PROVEN THAT IT IS RESPONSIVE TO IT, BUT DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM "SHOULD BE ENERGETICALLY FOUGHT." PERSONAL CONTACT AND THE PRESS SERVE AS CHANNELS FOR THIS CRITICISM.

4. POLITICIANS AS SUCH ARE NOT LOATHSOME, BUT POLITICKING (POLITQUERIA) IS, SINCE ITS EFFECT IS TO DIVIDE CHILEANS WHEREAS GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO UNITE THEM.

5. "I HAVE NEVER SAID HOW LONG" PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN IN POWER; "IT COULD BE A GENERATION." THERE HAS TO BE A NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM AND OUTLOOK. MILITARY OFFICERS ARE USED TO COMMAND, AND THEREFORE CAN GOVERN EFFECTIVELY, EVEN THOUGH "WE MAY BE INGENUOUS AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE INTRICACIES AND SUBTLETIES OF PARTISAN POLITICS." AT ANY EVENT, "THERE IS NO TURNING BACK FROM THE PROCESS BEGUN SEPTEMBER 11." THE EVENTUAL NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE ATUNED TO CHILEAN REALITY, AND WILL REFLECT INPUT OF VARIOUS GROUPS; MANNER OF ITS PROMULGATION IS STILL UNDECIDED. FORMATION OF A CIVIC-MILITARY MOVEMENT IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT.

6. GOC GOAL IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS TO REGAIN THE POSITION OF PRESTIGE PREVIOUSLY HELD BY CHILE. CLOSE RELATIONS WITH OTHER LATIN NATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED. GOC HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE REMAINS THE MAJOR PROBLEM.

7. MOST DIFFICULT DECISION HAS BEEN ECONOMIC POLICY. FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION MUST BE WAGED, AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND OTHER SOCIAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN AMELIORATED BY GOVERNMENT ACTION. "WE CANNOT THINK OF TURNING BACK."

8. "MY MAJOR PREOCCUPATION AS GOVERNMENT LEADER IS TO INTEGRATE THE COUNTRY, TO FORGE THE UNITY OF ALL CHILEANS."

9. COPY OF "ERCILLA" CONTAINING INTERVIEW POUCHED TO ARA/BC. POPPER UNQUOTE. MAW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE201459
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA:GCHAFIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750293-0009
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750823/aaaaatow.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PINOCHET INTERVIEW IN "ERCILLA"
TAGS: PINT, CI, (PINOCHET UGARTE, AUGUSTO)
To: KINGSTON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006